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Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by the Peoples Decade for Human Rights Education, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Human rights learning for full, productive and freely chosen employment

Creating an environment conducive to full employment is both a core social objective of sustainable human development and an imperative for human rights learning. The human right to work and full employment must be included in the learning about human rights at the community level. All people must know that full employment is directly related to the human right to work, defined by the ICESCR Covenant "the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his/her living by work which he/she freely chooses or accepts ..."

However, these rights do not address directly the matter of full employment.

From the human rights perspective, the ILO Convention No. 122 on Employment Policy, article 1 states ... along with lowering unemployment "each Member [state] shall promote full, productive and freely chosen employment. The policy shall aim at ensuring that: (a) There is work for all who are available for and seeking work; (b) Such work is as productive as possible; ... freedom of choice of employment ... --the fullest possible opportunity for each worker to qualify for a job irrespective of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin ..."

There is a central role for governments to design and implement full employment policies. However, there is also a critical role for human rights learning for women and men to know and claim their human rights.

Learning at the community level develops understanding of human rights in order to build a community where citizens and migrant workers live in a society where they are not instruments of production but human rights holders; both the means and the end of sustainable development.

Through human rights learning communities equip themselves to evolve strategies for development that ensure an integrated approach to realizing all human rights. Human rights learning is of critical relevance to some of the most important issues on the current agenda of this ECOSOC NGO Forum. The specific strategy of human rights learning for full employment in sustainable development would include the following:

1. Assuring that claimants have:

   Knowledge, of

   - universal human rights and the mechanism for their promotion and protection;
   - human rights as relevant to employment and work and people's daily lives;
   - the interrelatedness of all human rights and poverty reduction strategies;
   - the relationships between the holistic human rights framework and the general normative purposes of full employment policies.

- ***Critical Awareness and systemic analysis skills*** to asses causes of poverty, under-employment and unemployment; demanding change from those responsible for their denial.

- ***Political Skills*** to assess the conditions that will bring change, organizing actions for achieving full employment.

2. Applying the ***critical pedagogy of popular education*** by learners analysing:

– *Conditions of deprivation*

– *Relevant human rights standards*

– What actions can civil society take to assist governments to use the human rights framework as a guideline to achieving full employment?

The knowledge, skills and awareness ought to provide the content of a worldwide popular human rights education and learning campaign.